Ultras waiting to cross into J and K from Pakistan

1870. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 2500 ultras are waiting to cross into Jammu and Kashmir from Pakistan as stated in the 'Free Press Journal' dated the 19th June, 2000;

(b) if so, whether Pakistani army was helping the border crossing by firing at Indian positions across the frontier;

(c) whether ISI is attempting to spread its tentacles all over the country with the aim of balkanizing India;

(d) whether Pakistani strategy is to bleed India and to continue international intervention in Kashmir;

(e) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to counter this move; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (f) There are reports that suggest that approximately 2000-2500 terrorists are awaiting infiltration into J&K. It is our perception that Pak troops resorts to unprovoked firing on the border to facilitate infiltration of terrorists with the aim of aiding and abetting terrorism in J&K and to internationalise the issue. Pakistani agencies are also involved in various activities in other parts of the country.

All developments having a bearing on India's national security are constantly monitored and all necessary steps are taken from time to time to maintain appropriate defence preparedness to thwart any attempt of misadventure on the part of our adversaries.